

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 0899

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, PDIP, CS
SUBJECT: THE COSTA RICAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION: COMPOSITION
OF U.S. DELEGATION

1. SUMMARY. THE INAUGURATION OF COSTA RICA'S NEW PRESIDENT MAY 8 AFFORDS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE SYMBOLICALLY THE HIGH REGARD OF THE U.S. FOR A COUNTRY WITH A THRIVING DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND AN EXEMPLARY HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. A CAREFULLY-CHOSEN HIGH-LEVEL U.S. INAUGURAL DELEGATION LED BY MRS. CARTER OR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, WOULD CONSTITUTE A CLEAR STATEMENT OF U.S. PREFERENCE FOR GOVERNMENTS WHICH SHARE OUR DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS AND WHICH ARE BASED ON SIMILAR TRADITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. MRS. CARTER'S VISIT TO COSTA RICA IN MAY 1977 DEMONSTRATED THE ENORMOUSLY FAVORABLE IMPACT THAT A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT CAN PRODUCE IN THIS SMALL COUNTRY AND ON U.S.-COSTA RICAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. THAT COSTA RICA WAS INCLUDED IN MRS. CARTER'S ITINERARY WAS A STATEMENT TO THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA THAT THE U.S.G. PLACES A SPECIAL VALUE ON ITS RELATIONS WITH AUTHENTIC DEMOCRACIES WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE CHERISHED AND PROTECTED. THE MAY 8 INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT RODRIGO CARAZO PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR A TIMELY REITERATION OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC

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GOVERNMENTS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. A U.S. INAUGURAL DELEGATION LED BY MRS. CARTER OR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE WOULD SERVE TO SHOW U.S. ADMIRATION FOR COSTA RICA'S OPEN AND FREE POLITICAL SYSTEM. IT WOULD underscore COSTA RICA'S RECORD AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS BOTH DOMESTICALLY

AND IN THE INTERNATIONAL AREA. IT WOULD REINFORCE FOR THE INCOMING GOVERNMENT THAT THE U.S. VALUES PAST COSTA RICAN COOPERATION ON ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN AND THAT THE U.S. WANTS TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE NEW GOCR TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL OBJECTIVES IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

4. COSTA RICA, IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, HAS BEEN BENEFICIARY OF VISITS BY AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG; SENATOR MCGOVERN; SENATOR BENTSEN; REPRESENTATIVES REUSS, MOOREHEAD, WILSON, CONTE, LAFALCE, MINISH, STANTON, BROWN, HYDE; AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE TODMAN. THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND COSTA RICANS IN GENERAL WOULD PARTICULARLY WELCOME AMONG THE U.S. DELEGATION MEMBERS FROM BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES WHO ALREADY ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT COSTA RICA AND U.S./COSTA RICAN RELATIONS AND WHO APPRECIATE COSTA RICA'S UNIQUE MODEL ROLE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE LESSER-DEVELOPED WORLD.

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